The Luther-Bagby Collection is an ideal resource for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of early Baptists in Texas, their missions to Brazil, and general information about the period from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The collection is comprised of almost 1,500 folders of personal letters, photos, and historical documents relating to the Bagby families and their missionary journeys. The detailed accounts of this remarkable family—their dreams, sorrows, fears, and successes—form an immense collection which includes letters between Anne Luther and William Bagby prior to their marriage; between Mrs. Bagby and her parents, the Luthers; between the Bagbys and the Foreign Mission Board, and diaries kept by Anne, and other family members. There are sermons, poetry and translations of hymns, along with letters and documents from the five Bagby children who carried on the missionary endeavor in Brazil and Argentina.

This outstanding collection is a treasure waiting to be explored. It can serve as a core for documenting Baptist mission work in Brazil, Argentina, and other South American countries, and hopefully attract similar collections.

The young newlyweds first docked on the coast of Brazil in 1881, and within 10 years had established 10 churches with membership totaling 419.

When Dr. Bagby passed away in 1939, Brazilian Baptists reported 778 churches with 68,731 members.

It is a tale that chronicles their missionary work in Brazil, and how a family exerted profound influence also on the Christian church in that country, but had an extensive cultural impact both in Texas and abroad.

After an amazingly documented courtship through correspondence, Anne Luther married William Bagby in October of 1880. Though their calls were different (hers to foreign mission, his to teaching and ministry), they set sail for Brazil and the fertile mission fields found there. The rest of their story is truly remarkable.